

**PROJECT FACT SHEET**  
**Piedras Blancas Realignment**  
**05-49280 - SLO-1 PM 64.0/R67.2**

**Near San Simeon From Point Piedras Blancas to North of Arroyo de la Cruz Bridge**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION/SCOPE**

**PROPOSAL:** Realign 2.8 miles of roadway up to 475 feet inland of the existing alignment. The project will provide two twelve-foot lanes with eight-foot shoulders and a left turn lane at the former Piedras Blancas Motel, which is currently part of the Hearst-San Simeon State Park. The project includes restoration of the existing highway to natural conditions and restoration and enhancement of 12 acres of off-site State parklands to mitigate impacts to disturbed areas.

**PURPOSE AND NEED:** Severe coastal erosion (nearly 5 feet per year in some areas) has been temporarily mitigated through placement of rock slope protection at the highway shoulder, and minor realignment over the past 17 years. The project will protect the highway alignment for approximately the next 100 years and will provide for continued highway operation while recognizing the need for public access to the coastline and protecting sensitive resources.



**PROJECT FEATURES**

- Provides standard 12-foot lanes and 8-foot shoulders relocated away from hazardous areas
- Provides for motor vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian modes of travel
- Restores natural functions of creeks by replacing three significant crossings with bridges
- Consistent with State guidelines for accommodating sea level rise
- Removes artificial revetments, allows bluff and intertidal zone to establish stable equilibrium
- Maintains hydrologic connectivity of wetlands by use of permeable roadway subbase materials
- Permanent wetland and ESHA impacts are fully mitigated - no net loss
- Temporary impacts to ESHA and other habitats fully restored to preconstruction condition
- Restores to natural conditions fallow farm land owned by California State Parks & Recreation
- 76 acres of private lands between existing and new roadway added to public ownership
- Maintains mobility and continuity of public access along the coast and to the shore including parking at each end of the project and driveway access to the former Piedras Blancas Motel
- Provides environmental data, coordination and funding contribution for development of the California Coastal Trail
- Retains shoreline views and increases long-range views through change in highway elevation
- Relocates utilities underground within the roadway
- Contour grading reduces erosion and promotes growth of native vegetation
- Incorporates aesthetic treatment of bridges including open-style bridge rail with bicycle rail

**COMMUNITY INTERESTS:**

- Route 1 is a State Scenic Route, a National Scenic Byway, an All-American Road and on the Pacific Coast Bicycle Route
- Project is within the coastal zone, adjacent to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve
- Exploits series of agreements between State and Hearst Corporation regarding realignment areas and scenic conservation easements and conversion of private lands to the public domain
- Requires acquisition of portions of three private parcels
- Development of the California Coastal Trail

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

Environmental documentation includes an Environmental Impact Report, prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and an Environmental Assessment with a Finding of No Significant Impact, prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The combined document was approved on August 11, 2010. The project will impact biological resources, wetlands, and potentially change the visual experience at some locations along the new roadway. The project includes mitigation measures to reduce these impacts to less than significant. Biological mitigation includes planting and wetland creation as part of restoring the existing highway to more natural terrain. A mitigation site north of the Arroyo de la Cruz Bridge will create wetlands and a breeding pond for California Red-legged Frog and provide additional coastal prairie and coastal scrub lands. Permit requirements include Coastal Development Permit, Army Corps 404 Permit, Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service.

**FUNDING STATUS**

Right of Way Capital: \$ 14,170,000  
 Construction Capital: \$ 43,600,000

**SCHEDULE STATUS**

PA&ED (Actual)	R/W Certification	Ready to List	Begin Construction	New Roadway Open	Construction Complete
Aug 11, 2010	Sept 2014	Oct 2014	Apr 2015	Apr 2018	Oct 2021

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Assembly District: Katcho Achadjian (35)  
 State Senate District: Bill Monning (17)  
 U.S. Congressional Districts: Lois Capps (24)

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Paul P. Martinez / (805) 549-3407 / [paul\\_martinez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:paul_martinez@dot.ca.gov)

**PROJECT INFORMATION:** [http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/slo1\\_piedras/index.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/slo1_piedras/index.htm)